IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

Please add new claims 27-30 as follows:

27. (new) A method for synchronizing a first stream cipher generated at a transmission source and a second stream cipher generated at a reception site, wherein the first stream cipher and the second stream cipher are generated by a common recurrence relation, comprising:

determining an offset of a current state of the first stream cipher from an initial state; and

transmitting the offset of the current state of the first stream cipher to the reception site, whereupon the reception site uses the offset to calculate a new current state of the second stream cipher.

28. (new) The method of Claim 27, wherein the current state of the first stream cipher is further generated by a stuttering process, the method comprising:

determining types of stutter control variables associated with the current state of the first stream cipher and the number of instances each of the stutter control variable types were used to generate the current state of the first stream cipher; and

transmitting the number of instances each of the stutter control variables types were used to generate the current state of the first stream cipher to the reception site, whereupon the reception site also uses number of instances to calculate the new current state of the second stream cipher.

29. (new) An apparatus for synchronizing a first stream cipher generated at a transmission source and a second stream cipher generated at a reception site, wherein the first stream cipher and the second stream cipher are generated by a common recurrence relation, comprising:

a linear feedback shift register configured to output the first stream cipher;

a processor for manipulating the contents of the linear feedback shift register; and

a controller communicatively coupled to the processor, the controller for determining an offset of a current state of the first stream cipher from an initial state, wherein the offset is for transmission to the reception site, whereupon the reception site uses the offset to calculate a new current state of the second stream cipher.

30. (new) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein the processor is further configured to implement a stuttering process upon the output of the linear feedback shift register and the controller is further configured to determine: the types of stutter control variables associated with the current state of the first stream cipher; and the number of instances each of the stutter control variable types were used to generate the current state of the first stream cipher.